

**City of San Diego  
MEDICAL MARIJUANA/CANNABIS TASK FORCE**

**MEETING SUMMARY FOR  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2001 @ 12 NOON**

**EXECUTIVE COMPLEX - 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
1010 SECOND AVENUE**

(For Information contact Ed Plank,  
Task Force staff, 619-236-6433)

Attendance:

The following Task Force members were in attendance: St. Clair Adams, Dale Kelly Bankhead, Michael Bartelmo, Dr. Al Best, Larry Chaidez, Juliana Humphrey, Steve McWilliams, Jerry Meier, Dr. Daniel Pearce, Ann Shanahan-Walsh, Conley Major. Staff: David Rohowits for Lt. Carl Black, Paul Cooper, Ed Plank

**Review of Minutes from August Meeting**

Task Force asked for Minutes to be redistributed for review.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Patient/Doctor Issues Subcommittee**

Survey was discussed. Ann Shanahan Walsh discussed obtaining mailing labels from the Medical Society for distribution of the survey to doctors. Two options - purchase labels according to specialty or we can petition executive committee to donate them. Ann was going to petition the Executive Committee in hopes of having labels for selected specialties donated for survey purposes.

Press conference will be delayed a little while until week after next, Ann will let people know. Was discussion of survey distribution strategy. Jerry and Ann described the targeted distribution for medical specialties and organizations that have contact with appropriate patients.

Ed asked Task force members to identify the number of surveys they would like and to identify if there is a method of collection available. Initial printing of patient/caregiver surveys was available and task force members could take surveys with them.

Ann will schedule press conference and inform all other task force members so they can attend.

**Medical Research Subcommittee**

Michael summarized a conversation with Dr. Mattison on the status of the research. To some degree the research is still under design and being negotiated with the involved government agencies.

Subcommittee is also looking at other methods of delivering the medication including THC and other cannabinoid nasal sprays. Two handouts were provided (see attached). There is research in England on this method.

Subcommittee is also looking at the effect of different strains of marijuana on its effectiveness for patients with different afflictions. Another County in California is also evaluating this.

The subcommittee would like to establish a City sponsored website that could collect additional information from patients and provide information and potentially convey information.

Ed to look at what options exist for basic website and links at this point, and what alternatives there are for the future.

### **Legislative Efforts Subcommittee**

Dale Kelly Bankhead reported that the City Council would consider whether to support the Bill Monday at 2:00. The Bill does have law enforcement support so they will attempt to contact law enforcement leaders to speak to this at Council. The Bill did not make it out of the legislature. Because the amendments were not reconciled it will become a two year bill and will be taken up again in January.

Amendments eliminated references to a registry... just a card system.

Committee discussed the most effective method of testifying at Council... members and others are encouraged to come and at a minimum show support.

### **San Diego Card/Registration System**

Motion was made by Subcommittee to call the project under development to be the Medicinal Cannabis Voluntary Verification Program/Card. Cannabis is the name more regularly referred to by medical community and is a more technically acceptable term to use. The motion carried 10-0-1.

Motion to rename the Task Force to the Medical Cannabis/Marijuana Task Force. Discussion ensued. 6-4, motion carried.

Subcommittee will have draft proposal on card system based on information from the San Francisco model. Will include costs information and contacts with law enforcement.

### **Law Enforcement Subcommittee**

Chair proposed link with hospitals for registration card development in terms of what to include on the card. Subcommittee feels there are interim recommendations needed to Council to propose Police Dept. protocols based on the experience of Task Force member Steve McWilliams. Example was 'cooling off' rule before marijuana plants are pulled out or destroyed. Issuance of tags for plants could be considered. This concept could be linked with patient registry.

When a Police contact is made, the subject person should receive a copy of the Police report on the disposition of the matter in case future contacts result. However these types of contacts don't normally occur in this way. The objective was to not have the police get involved and if they do, then have the contact be dealt with ASAP.

Arrest and contact statistics were discussed and distributed (see attached).

St Clair discussed with Carl Black the potential for training the full Police Force on the guidelines and protocols for dealing with medical cannabis contacts. Lt. Black will meet with the subcommittee for further discussions.

An incident was described where cannabis plants were confiscated because no one was present to establish the medical defense when a search warrant was executed. PD will consider a practice of waiting until someone is present before coming onto the premises. Discussion ensued on Police practices regarding the return of confiscated cannabis, and allowing a period for investigation before plants are pulled or confiscated.

Motion was made to recommend to the City Council to have the Police Department change its procedures for confiscating growing medical cannabis to include a 72 hour waiting period before destroying plants.. Vote 3 to 6, motion did not carry

### **Advocacy Subcommittee**

Barbara MacKenzie described the level of anxiety she felt during the incident involving the assault on Steve McWilliams at Shelter From the Storm and the resulting Police activity at the facility. Steve McWilliams mentioned that a Police Officer who followed up the next day indicated that the message may not be getting out to the full force, underlining the need for training.

There was a consensus Task Force request for the Police Department representative to convey to his colleagues the concern over destroying cannabis plants during the harvest season over the next couple of months because it represents such a critical time in the production of a patient's supply for the coming year.

### **Public Comments**

Does identification card cover caregivers as well as patients? The consensus was yes.  
Comment regarding lawsuit (Condent versus McCaffery) which established a permanent injunction

regarding handling of certain medical Cannabis situations.